

Serial No.: 09/683,417
Attorney Docket No.: F-428

Patent

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****AUG 11 2006**

Please amend the claims as shown below.

Claim 1-25 (canceled).

26. (currently amended) A mailbox for decontaminating mail comprising:
a door for allowing access to the interior of the mailbox;
a decontamination system operatively connected to a controller for decontaminating mail;
at least one divider for separating mail; and
a keyed start switch that is engaged and switched to start when a physical key is inserted and turned and that is used to send a decontamination start signal to the decontamination system and to restrict decontamination start signal generation to the mail carrier possessing the physical key.

27. (previously amended) The mailbox of claim 26, wherein the controller includes a communications device for providing status information to a remote user located inside a home.

28-33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended) A decontaminating device including a decontamination chamber comprising:
a door for allowing access to the interior of the decontamination chamber;
a decontamination system operatively connected to a controller for decontaminating mail;
at least one divider for separating mail; and
a keyed start switch that is engaged and switched to start when a physical key is inserted and turned and that is used to send a decontamination start signal to the

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decontamination system and to restrict decontamination start signal generation to the mail carrier possessing the physical key.

35. (previously presented) The mailbox of claim 26 further comprising:
reflective shielding operatively connected to the mailbox to prevent UV
radiation from escaping.

36. (canceled).

37. (previously presented) The mailbox of claim 27 wherein:
the communications device includes a wireless network communications
channel.

38. (currently amended) The mailbox of claim 26 wherein:
the divider material is at least partially transparent to UV radiation.

39. (currently amended) The mailbox of claim 34 wherein:
the decontamination system includes a UV source; and
the divider material is at least partially transparent to UV radiation.

40. (new) The decontaminating device of claim 34 further comprising:
a communications device for providing status information to a remote user
located inside a home and wherein the communications device is configured to
provide an indication to the remote user indicating that the mail has arrived and then
provide an indication to the remote user indicating that a sanitization process is
underway.

41. (new) The mailbox of claim 37 wherein:

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the communications device is configured to provide an indication to the remote user indicating that the mail has arrived and then provide an indication to the remote user indicating that a sanitization process is underway.

42. (new) A mailbox for decontaminating mail comprising:
a door for allowing access to the interior of the mailbox;
a decontamination system including a UV source operatively connected to a controller for decontaminating mail;
reflective shielding operatively connected to the mailbox to prevent UV radiation from escaping;
at least one divider for separating mail that is at least partially transparent to UV radiation; and
a start switch that is engaged and that is used to send a decontamination start signal to the decontamination system.